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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Tuesday 11 April 1978

CG NIDC 78/084C



**NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION**

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State Dept. review completed

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday, 11 April 1978.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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## SOMALIA: Aftermath of Coup

25X1 [ ] //Somali President Siad appears confident that forces loyal to him are in control of Somalia. Government forces are still conducting mopping-up operations against dissident army groups on the outskirts of Mogadiscio.//

25X1 [ ] The US Embassy reports that there has been a marked reduction in the number of armed soldiers and police patrolling the streets of Mogadiscio and that this may reflect Siad's growing confidence that he has things under control. The capital is generally calm, and Radio Mogadiscio has resumed normal operations. The presidential compound, however, remains under heavy guard and there are still roadblocks throughout much of the city.

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25X1 [ ] Siad not only had a well developed contingency plan but also had been extremely judicious in his selection and positioning of troops in and around the capital. Because of his excellent intelligence network, it is also possible that he was aware of the coup plans before the attempt.

25X1 [ ] //Although Siad, for the moment at least, appears to be in control, there are signs of continuing military activity on Mogadiscio's western and northwestern fringes. There are also rumors that fighting has broken out in Hargeisa, Somalia's second largest city and the headquarters for a large number of disgruntled Somali forces who fought in the Ogaden.//

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## PHILIPPINES: Political Situation

25X1 [ ] Philippine President Marcos yesterday tightened martial law restrictions on open assembly following the arrest on Sunday of over 500 demonstrators, including several respected opposition leaders.

25X1 [ ] Marcos' actions are a pointed reminder that martial law remains the keystone of his regime and seem aimed at further undermining the morale of the Philippine opposition.

25X1 [ ] The President told a cabinet session yesterday that "subversives" had now taken over the opposition and that they clearly intended to increase tension and promote "revolutionary anarchy." Former Senator Tanada, one of the Philippines' most respected constitutional lawyers, has been detained, and several other opposition candidates have reportedly gone into hiding.

25X1 [ ] Major opposition figures--with the exception of defeated former Senator Benigno Aquino--boycotted the election in the conviction that Marcos would ultimately rig the outcome, even at the risk of criticism at home and abroad on the issue of human rights.

25X1 [ ] Many opposition candidates have been looking ahead to local elections later this year as a more realistic test of their strength. Marcos' remarks yesterday suggest, however, that he may delay the next round of elections. [ ]

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## NIGERIA: Constituent Assembly

25X1 [ ] The Nigerian constituent assembly, which is reviewing a draft constitution in preparation for a scheduled return to civilian rule next year, last Thursday rejected a proposal for a federal Islamic court of appeals, the most emotional and potentially divisive issue before the body. The compromise solution finally adopted falls far short of what powerful northern Muslim interests had been pressing for.

25X1 [ ] Non-Muslim southerners and minority tribesmen in the north opposed a separate Islamic court of appeals in the belief it would give undue privilege to the north, which dominated Nigeria's first civilian government.

25X1 [ ] Some Muslims were already unhappy about a constitutional provision approved in January for a strong executive presidency, and this latest move will upset them even more. Many northern delegates have withdrawn from the assembly in protest. This could be a temporary measure or a tactical expedient to try to force reconsideration of the issue.

25X1 [ ] The real depth of northern disappointment is not yet clear. There are signs that the compromise has the blessings of some key traditional leaders in the north. These men want to paper over differences in the assembly; they are eager for civilian rule because they expect that Nigeria's next civilian president will come from their ranks.

25X1 [ ] The assembly has virtually completed work on the legislative section of the constitution. The only thorny problem remaining is the question of revenue allocation. The draft constitution calls for giving the federal legislature the power

to decide on the division of revenue among the federal government and Nigeria's 19 states. There is pressure, however, to write a formula for dividing revenue into the constitution.

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[ ] The two principal oil-producing states in the south maintain they are not receiving a fair share of revenues under the formula now being used by the military government. There are equally strong feelings among the other states, particularly those in the less developed north, that they must protect their existing share of revenues.

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[ ] The constituent assembly should finish its review of the constitution well before this October, the target date set by the military government. Its members hope this will compel the military to lift its 12-year-old ban on political activity before that time, which would give the political parties more opportunity to organize for the state and federal elections that--if all goes according to plan--will result in the installation of a civilian government in October 1979.

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#### BRIEF

#### China

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[ ] China has purchased 600,000 tons of US wheat for delivery between June and September of this year. The Chinese had already bought 4.8 million tons from Canada and Australia for delivery by July. The new purchase reflects China's poor harvest last year and a grain supply situation that will remain tight through September.

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[ ] The US was the only supplier able to deliver the grain the Chinese needed. There are backups at Canadian ports, and Australia and Argentina have no unsold stocks. China may purchase another million tons for delivery before the end of the year. [ ]

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